

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels Claims 33, and 36-38. Claim 39 has been added to more distinctly claim that which Applicant believes is his invention. Claims 22-25, 28 and 31-32 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to provide claims that conform more closely to the United States Patent Office requirements. Part numbers have been deleted from Claim 32. No new matter has been added by the Amendment.

Support for the Amendment can be found throughout the Specification, and in particular, as follows:

Support for the amendment to Claim 26 is additionally provided in original Claim 25 which referred to Claim 24. Support for the amendment to Claim 27 is additionally provided in Paragraphs 64, lines 8-12, wherein it is disclosed that, “Additionally, a pharmaceutically active substance chosen from a steroid, an antibiotic, lipocalin, lactoferrin, lysozyme, cytokine-blocking agents such as cyclosporin A, and an antioxidant may be administered simultaneously, separately, or sequentially; and topically to the skin, to the ocular surface, or orally, to the patient in need thereof.”

Support for new Claim 39 is found throughout the Specification, at least in the description of the Clinical Trials, Table 4, page 33, “Summary of Kinetic Analysis of Tear Interference Images”, data on Tear Spread Time, Before and After Lipid Ointment Treatment; and Paragraphs 84, 85 (last 7 lines), 86 (last 6 lines), 87 (last 5 lines), 88 (last 8 lines), 89 (last 4 lines).

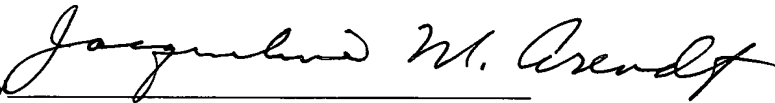
Entry of the foregoing Amendment is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the Application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 897-8400.

Respectfully submitted,

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